



Building on Momentum: Ward 6 Middle Schools Comprehensive Summary of Feedback

This document summarizes the feedback DCPS collected on the plan for middle schools in Ward 6, and how DCPS has addressed the feedback in the final plan.

DCPS solicited parent input in a variety of ways and received a lot of important feedback. Parents communicated with us in the following ways:

- Community Meeting on April 26th (approx. 30 attended)
- Community Meeting on May 19th (approx. 40 attended)
- Multiple small group meetings with parents, including PTA and parent organization meetings
- Email correspondence and phone calls
- Survey (172 responses online and in hard copy; asked all principals to send surveys home with students)

The feedback has been compiled in the following table. Similar comments were grouped together and paraphrased. The feedback is organized by feeder school and issue area.

School	Issue Area	Feedback	Group	How does the Ward 6 Middle School plan address this issue?
Eliot-Hine MS	Academics	Would like an International Baccalaureate Program to ensure strong academics and to attract IB-caliber students	Capitol Hill Public School Parent Organization (CHPSPO) proposal and Maury Parent	Eliot-Hine will begin the IB-MYP planning year in 2010-2011 school year.
		Need a strong Spanish language program for students from Tyler and other schools who have come in with advanced levels of Spanish	CHPSPO proposal	Eliot-Hine will launch a Spanish language offering in the 2010-11 school year. In an effort to serve students graduating from the Tyler Spanish immersion program in SY13-14, Eliot-Hine will provide advanced Spanish language instruction. This is contingent on enrollment of Tyler immersion students.
		Would like to see a second language option if possible	Maury Parent	Schools need at least 600 students to have the resources to offer a second language option. Until Eliot-Hine reaches this threshold, the plan explores ways to offer a second language through sharing a teacher across schools or providing an online option.
		Need more info on the International Baccalaureate Program	Maury and Miner Parents	We developed an FAQ about IB-MYP. This can be found on our website (dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/building-on-momentum)
		What efforts will be made to address the needs of lower-achieving students?	Maury and Tyler Parents	The plan includes a timeline for identifying and implementing a math intervention program. This, along with the reading intervention programs that currently exist, will be targeted to students who are behind in an effort to get them back on track.
		Should integrate art into the curriculum	Maury and Tyler Parents	The plan does not explicitly address this.

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Eliot-Hine MS	Academics	Teachers need to increase test scores without teaching to the test	Tyler Parent	Our ultimate goal is to improve student achievement so that middle school students are prepared for high school. The plan outlines strategies that help us move towards this goal. An important component of implementing the programs and interventions is teacher professional development.
	Feeder Pattern	Eliot-Hine should stay a neighborhood school	Eliot-Hine Parent	Eliot-Hine will remain a neighborhood school. All in-boundary students and students from feeder schools will have a guaranteed seat at Eliot-Hine.
		Eliot-Hine should prepare students to succeed at Eastern High School: make sure programming aligns	Eliot-Hine and Maury Parents	In the development of the plan, we looked at what elementary feeder schools offer and what is planned for Eastern HS. For example, in an effort to better serve students who will come from the Tyler Spanish immersion program we will be offering an advanced Spanish course at Eliot-Hine. Knowing that Eastern will have an IB program was considered when deciding to bring IB to Eliot-Hine.
		Miner Elementary School should continue through the 8 th grade	CHPSPO proposal	The plan does not include expanding Miner through 8 th grade. We support the growth and improvement of Eliot-Hine, the destination middle school for Miner ES, and we will work with the Miner families in an effort to better serve them at Eliot-Hine.
	Facilities	Would like attention on the grounds and enhanced classroom facilities	Maury Parents	Eliot-Hine received significant facilities work in the summer of 2008. Eliot-Hine is slated for Phase 1 modernization in 2014.
		The building should be safe	Maury Parents	Safety and security is a priority in all of our schools and we are prepared to work with schools to ensure a safe and secure learning environment.

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Eliot-Hine MS	Extra-curricular Activities	Would like Eliot-Hine to provide a variety of music, art, athletic and community service programs	Maury Parents	Eliot-Hine currently has a variety of extracurricular activities such as basketball, chess, yearbook, a robotics team and a prize-winning step team.
	Staffing	Is the current staff (teachers and principals) at these middle schools prepared to take on these new programs and increase the rigor?	Maury Parent	Yes. We have engaged principals throughout this process and will continue to work with them and their instructional superintendents to implement the plan.
	School Culture	Eliot-Hine should be inclusive of all students	Eliot-Hine and Maury Parents	All students are welcome at Eliot-Hine. Through the Eliot-Hine Collaboration Team, parents and school staff will work together to create a welcoming environment.
		Eliot-Hine should have a 6 th Grade Academy in order to capitalize on a new start	Maury Parent	While the plan for Eliot-Hine does not establish a 6 th grade academy with a new leader, this does not mean that the Eliot-Hine Collaboration Team should not propose a plan to do something similar. There are strategies that the school community can use to cultivate a sense of unity among the incoming 6 th graders that does not require a distinct leader.
	Community Involvement	Inclusion of parents from all schools, from Eliot-Hine MS as well as all of the feeder schools	Eliot-Hine Parent	The Collaboration Teams will include parent and community representatives from all elementary feeder schools and Eliot-Hine MS.
		Would like more active engagement with the elementary school communities	Maury Parent	We acknowledge that not all schools have been actively involved in the development of the plan, thus far. For this reason, Collaboration Teams will include parents and staff from all of the feeder elementary and middle schools.
	Miscellaneous	Implement more environmentally-friendly measures	Maury Parent	DCPS currently has recycling programs in 40 schools and is working to implement programs in all schools.

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Eliot-Hine MS	Miscellaneous	Phase out co-located programs	CHPSPO	Youth Engagement Academy (now Washington Metropolitan High School) vacated Eliot-Hine in summer 2010.
		More detail on the plan and more frequent updates	Maury and Eliot-Hine Parents	DCPS central office will work with Collaboration Teams to maintain school communities up to date on the progress of the implementation of the plan.
		Need to see tangible progress in order to buy into the plan	Tyler Parent	DCPS fully understands this. We believe with the successful implementation of the plan, students and parents will see the changes in the school culture and climate.
Jefferson MS	Feeder Pattern	Unhappy with Brent feeding to Jefferson; would like to feed into a school on Capitol Hill.	Brent Parents	Given that Brent is equidistant from Jefferson and Eliot-Hine, the plan provides Brent families with an option to feed to either school. Brent families will have the option to feed into Eliot-Hine until school boundaries are re-drawn.
		Proposed that Brent ES continues through 8 th grade	CHPSPO proposal	The plan does not include expanding Brent through the 8 th grade. The plan includes significant changes in an effort to strengthen Jefferson MS. The plan also includes adding Eliot-Hine MS as a destination school, in addition to Jefferson.
		Proposed that Brent students to feed into Stuart-Hobson until Jefferson is renovated and Van Ness is operational	Brent Parent	Brent students will continue to feed to Jefferson and will now have the option to also feed into Eliot-Hine. There is no space at Stuart-Hobson to accommodate Brent students as a feeder school. DCPS will assess the feasibility of reopening Van Ness ES by January 2011.
		Proposed to send Brent students to Eliot-Hine; start a 6th Grade Academy there instead of at Jefferson, either for interim period while Jefferson is renovated, or permanently	Brent Parents and Brent PTA	Brent students will have the option of attending Jefferson or Eliot-Hine MS. In summer 2011, Jefferson will receive facility upgrades to the Academy and other spaces.

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Jefferson MS	Feeder Pattern	Proposed to send Brent students to Jefferson, based on certain conditions.	Brent PTA	Jefferson MS will remain the destination school for Brent ES.
		Proposed to send Brent Students to Van Ness for MS, based on certain conditions.	Brent PTA	By January 2011, DCPS will assess the feasibility of reopening Van Ness as an elementary school.
		Jefferson's 6th Grade Academy should relocate to Eastern High School while Jefferson is renovated	Brent Parent	In summer 2011, Jefferson will receive facility upgrades to the Academy and other spaces. Jefferson's Phase 1 modernization is scheduled for 2013.
		The 100 students entering the 6th Grade Academy from a variety of elementary schools need to be at a proficient academic level, or the plan must address how to provide strong academics for students at all levels.	Brent Parents	The plan includes providing differentiated math pathways for students at Jefferson, providing a comprehensive intervention program for students who need extra support, and opportunities for advancement for students who are ready.
		Brent parents are very eager to learn more about Amidon-Bowen and get involved	Brent Parent	Brent parents and Amidon-Bowen parents will have the opportunity to work together on a Collaboration Team.
		Provide more information on the 6 th Grade Academy	Brent Parent	With a dedicated leader, the 6 th Grade Academy will establish a culture of high-achievement and learning. The Collaboration Team will conduct targeted recruitment from all feeder schools and across the city to ensure that students understand what will be expected of them.
		Make sure that Jefferson welcomes students from all feeder schools	Thomson Parent	Through the Collaboration Teams, feeder schools will have the opportunity to work together toward a common middle school vision. The Team will also develop a student recruitment plan that includes targeted efforts at feeder schools.

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Jefferson MS	Facilities	The Jefferson facility needs a complete renovation before any students attend.	Brent and Payne Parents	In summer 2011, Jefferson will receive facility upgrades to the Academy wing and other spaces. Jefferson's Phase 1 modernization is scheduled for 2013.
		Would like an interim option in a different building until Jefferson has gone through Phase 1 renovation	Brent Parent	
	Staffing	Dr. Wilhoyte should play a very significant role in hiring administration and faculty for Van Ness and Jefferson.	Brent Parent	Principal Wilhoyte will continue to be involved in this initiative and will contribute to the search and hiring process for the Academy leader at Jefferson.
		The Brent PTA would like a high degree of control over the administration and operation of the 6 th Grade Academy	Brent PTA	Through the Collaboration Team, the Brent community will play an active role in the planning and design of the 6 th Grade Academy at Jefferson. DCPS is responsible for hiring and administrative decisions.
		Jefferson should have a strong principal that ensures a safe learning environment	Brent Parent	DCPS will be searching for a 6 th Grade Academy principal that will provide the leadership and vision needed to build a school that is focused on student success. This person will be responsible for creating a conducive and safe learning environment.
	Academics	Class sizes should be capped at 20 for the first five years of Jefferson's new program.	Brent Parent	DCPS class size for middle school is generally around 25 students, which is typical across school districts and provides sufficient support for students.
		Jefferson must have quality special education programs	Brent Parent	DCPS will ensure that special education students at Jefferson, and every other school, receive the quality services and support they need to succeed.
		Jefferson has same "wrap around services" as Eliot-Hine.	Brent Parent	Jefferson, like Eliot-Hine, will be a Full-Service School (FSS) and receive the services and staff to provide comprehensive social-emotional support.

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Jefferson MS	Academics	Jefferson should have a Chinese language offering, to continue Brent's program	Brent Parent	Jefferson will launch a Chinese language offering in SY2011-2012.
		Jefferson has no library; gave it up to partner with OCTO (Office of the Chief Technology Officer)--must quickly put a library in Jefferson	Payne Parent	DCPS is currently working with Jefferson's Interim Principal, Patricia Pride, to identify appropriate space for a library.
		Currently a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) school. Will it retain that focus?	Payne Parent	While Jefferson is not a STEM school, it does host the high-tech Classroom of the Future, and will focus on strengthening their math, technology and science courses. The plan focuses on strengthening the math program as well as making it an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program.
		Would like a program operating from a position of strength – where the majority of the students are proficient or above.	Brent PTA	Our goal is to prepare all students for success in high school. The plan includes strategies to support students who are below basic in order to bring them up to grade level. The plan also outlines pathways for students who are ready for more advanced coursework to move ahead.
		Would like an IB Middle Years Program (perhaps paired with an IB Primary Years program at Brent).	Brent PTA	SY11-12, Jefferson will begin the planning year for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program.
		Would like "Whole child" development - academic, social, artistic and physical.	Brent PTA	Jefferson will be a Full-Service School (FSS) and receive the necessary services and staff to provide comprehensive social-emotional support to students.

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Jefferson MS	Academics	Jefferson must emphasize academic rigor, including summer bridge programs and accelerated learning opportunities to meet the needs of struggling and advanced students	Brent PTA	Our goal is to prepare all students for success in high school. The plan outlines strategies to support students who are below basic in order to bring them up to grade level. The plan also outlines pathways for students who are ready for more advanced coursework to move ahead. One of the activities of the Collaboration Teams will include planning a summer bridge program.
		Would like to see a gifted and talented program at Jefferson	Ward 6 resident, future parent	The IB-MYP program will ensure that Jefferson has high academic standards and that students are challenged academically.
		Concern that students in SW will not be able to attend Jefferson because they are not ready for the IB program	Jefferson Parent	The IB-MYP will be implemented at the entire school and accessible to all incoming students at Jefferson. Academic and socio-emotional supports will be available to students who need them.
		Include the development of writing skills in the academic plan	Brent Parent	Both the IB Program and the new Common Core curriculum emphasize writing skills.
		Incorporate arts-based programming and independent learning	Brent Parent	While the plan does not focus on either of these elements, we encourage schools to work with central office to explore program options that will enhance the curriculum and support diverse learning styles.
	School Culture	Jefferson needs to have a vibrant school life without the need for excessive control measures by staff.	Brent PTA	The 6 th Grade Academy will establish a new culture and set of behavior requirements. Additionally, through the Collaboration Teams, feeder schools will have the opportunity to work together toward a common middle school vision.
		Want parents and students to sign a strong contract promising proper behavior, academic standards, etc.	Brent Parent	The Collaboration Team will be exploring options for additional steps in the admission process that communicates standards and expectations. One of the options is a commitment contract signed by a student and their parents.

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Jefferson MS	School Culture	Enforce high standards for discipline	Brent Parents	The Academy principal will establish a school climate that is based on respect and order. All teachers, staff and students will be expected to uphold these standards.
		Establish a culture of inclusion of all students, that actively embraces diversity	Thomson Parent	One of DCPS' guiding principles for this planning initiative is to embrace diversity as a key strength. The Collaboration Teams will be working with parents and staff across schools to organize community-building activities that celebrate diversity.
	Community Involvement	Include parents from all schools, on and off Capitol Hill, in the process of rebuilding Jefferson	Thomson Parents and Brent Parents	We acknowledge the fact that not all schools have been actively involved in the development of the plan, thus far. For this reason, Collaboration Teams will include parents and staff from all of the feeder schools and from Jefferson MS.
		Provide parents with tangible ways to contribute to rebuilding Jefferson	Thomson and Brent Parents	One of the goals of the Collaboration Team will be to support the implementation of the Ward 6 middle school plan. The Team will organize events, help design the Academy and develop systems to ensure all parents are informed of have the opportunity to participate.
	Miscellaneous	Would like Jefferson to have strong partnerships with the Smithsonian and other institutions incorporating aspects of a School Without Walls concept to capitalize on rich local resources.	Brent PTA	One of the projects for the Collaboration Teams is to design the Smithsonian/Museum Studies partnership at Jefferson and Stuart-Hobson MS.
		Provide safe transportation from Capitol Hill to Jefferson	Brent Parents	While DCPS will not provide transportation, but we will work with DDOT to identify safe routes from Capitol Hill to Jefferson MS.

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Stuart-Hobson MS	Academics	Stuart-Hobson should have an IB Program; already nearly ready--would not take much to implement an IB Program	Payne, Watkins ES, Watkins Montessori , and Peabody Parents	The International Baccalaureate Program is not the only way to ensure a rigorous academic program. The plan focuses on differentiated math pathways and world language credit as strategies to ensure students are prepared for success in high school.
		Stuart-Hobson parents want more extensive and rigorous academic offerings, such as a Gifted and Talented Program.	Payne and Peabody Parents	Academic programming will support and challenge students at all levels. The Ward 6 plan focuses on differentiated math pathways and world language credit as strategies to ensuring students are prepared for success in high school.
		Provide more detail on Stuart-Hobson students taking classes at Eastern	Payne Parent	DCPS will explore this option moving forward.
		Should put placement tests and other measures in place to ensure that the differentiated math program succeeds	Watkins Parent	The Ward 6 plan includes adopting a math placement tests for incoming 6 th graders as well as adopting end of course tests for Algebra 1 and Geometry, starting this coming school year.
		Stuart-Hobson should provide opportunities for hands-on learning and promote creative teaching methods	Watkins ES and Peabody Parents	The plan does not explicitly address this, but DCPS is always exploring more creative teaching techniques and continues to encourage museum partnerships.
		Stuart-Hobson should offer Geometry	Stuart-Hobson Parent	For those students who are ready to take Geometry in the 8 th grade, we will provide them with an opportunity to do so, beginning in 2011-2012.
		Special education programs should be enhanced	Watkins Montessori Parent	Academic programming will support and challenge students at all levels.
		Languages should be taught with the full-immersion method (no English spoken)	Stuart-Hobson Parent	As we develop the world language program, we will consider various teaching methods.

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Stuart-Hobson MS	Feeder Pattern	Send Ludlow-Taylor to Stuart-Hobson and move the 5th grade to Watkins ES	CHPSPO proposal, Ludlow-Taylor, Peabody and Watkins ES Parents	In SY11-12, we will move the 6 th grade out of Stuart-Hobson to Watkins ES. At this point we will have Ludlow-Taylor feed into Stuart-Hobson MS.
		Would the teachers from Stuart-Hobson's 5 th grade program move to Watkins?	Watkins Montessori Parent	The required teachers and staff for the 5 th grade class will become part of the Watkins planning and budget process. Staffing decisions will continue to be the responsibility of the principal, in consultation with the LSRT.
		Will moving 5th grade to Watkins adversely affect existing teams/grades?	Watkins Montessori Parent	DCPS, working with the school leader and the Stuart-Hobson Collaboration Team, will ensure as smooth a transition as possible.
		Stuart-Hobson should continue as a middle size middle school	CHPSPO proposal	Stuart-Hobson will continue to be a medium-size school
		School boundaries should be more stringently enforced	Watkins ES Parent	The plan does not address this.
		Brent ES and Watkins ES should feed into the same middle school	Watkins ES Parent	Brent ES and Watkins ES will not feed into the same middle school. Brent students have the option to feed into Jefferson MS or Eliot-Hine MS. Watkins students feed into Stuart-Hobson MS.
		School demographics should reflect neighborhood demographics—focus on diversity	Watkins Montessori Parent	One of DCPS' guiding principles for this planning initiative is to embrace diversity as a key strength.
		Stuart-Hobson should feed into Eastern HS	CHPSPO proposal	Stuart-Hobson will feed into Eastern HS.

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Stuart-Hobson MS	Facilities	Needs modernization; use space at Eastern while renovating Stuart-Hobson	Payne, Stuart-Hobson and Watkins Parents	Stuart-Hobson is slated to receive a Phase 1 modernization in the summer of 2012.
	Staffing	Stuart-Hobson should have strong leadership and skilled teachers	Watkins Montessori, Peabody, and Watkins ES Parents	While the plan does not focus on leadership changes, we acknowledge the human capital component is critical to successfully implementing the plan and will work with school leaders and staff to ensure this.
	Extra-Curricular Activities	Would like to see more extra-curricular options, esp. music (band/orchestra) and sports	Watkins Montessori, Stuart-Hobson, and Peabody Parents	The plan includes exploring options to offer more extra-curricular activities, including access to some of the activities that will be offered at Eastern HS.
Watkins Montessori	Cluster Membership	Montessori should stay in the Capitol Hill Cluster for at least the next 5 years. Beneficial because of stability, resource sharing and location	Watkins Montessori Parent	Once a decision is made on the grade configuration for the program, we will decide whether it will remain part of the cluster.
		If Montessori has its own campus, may need an Assistant Principal to aid in managing four campuses in the Cluster	Watkins Montessori Parent	This is an option that DCPS is considering.
	Cluster Membership	Montessori parents are comfortable with the school eventually leaving the Cluster to ensure it is seen as a city wide school (5 years future or later)	Watkins Montessori Parent	Once a decision is made on the grade configuration for the program, we will decide whether it will remain part of the cluster.

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Watkins Montessori	Grade Configuration	Move Watkins Montessori to another building and expand through 8 th grade	CHPSPO proposal	The plan includes moving the Montessori program to the Logan school building in SY11-12. DCPS has not yet decided if Montessori will expand to include middle years. A final decision on grade configuration will be made by January 2011.
		Would like more information on what the Montessori 6-8 would look like	Watkins Montessori Parent	We received many comments and questions from parents about what a Montessori middle school would look like. Watkins principal, Brandon Eatman, will establish a committee of parents and staff to pull together these details.
		Would like the both options—to continue Montessori through 8 th grade and have students go to Stuart-Hobson in 6 th . The survey that forced a choice was slanted.	Watkins Montessori Parents	DCPS has not yet decided if Montessori will expand to include middle years. A final decision will be made by January 2011. The survey was intended to have parents prioritize the options.
	Academics	Montessori should have a language program	Watkins Montessori Parent	The plan does not address this. Should the Montessori program expand to middle years, they will be expected to offer a foreign language program.
	Miscellaneous	Want a smooth transition to a new building	Watkins Montessori Parent	One of the projects of the Stuart-Hobson Collaboration Team is to work with DCPS to ensure a smooth transition.
		Seek AMI (Association Montessori Internationale) certification	Watkins Montessori Parent	The Montessori program is currently pursuing the AMI primary years certification.
Watkins ES	Facilities	Needs modernization; if Montessori leaves, will have to reconfigure classrooms to make traditional classroom setting	Payne and Watkins Parent	DCPS will make the necessary classroom configurations to accommodate the incoming 5 th graders.

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Van Ness	Feeder Pattern	Van Ness as an elementary school--sister school to Brent, feeding into Jefferson	Brent Parent	By January, 2011, DCPS will assess the feasibility of reopening Van Ness Elementary School.
		Van Ness as elementary school—option for neighborhoods currently zoned for Amidon-Bowen	Capitol Quarter Parents	
Miscellaneous	Academics	The Museum Studies program needs to be well-planned and supported in order to be effective. Focus on hands on, multi-disciplinary learning	CHPSPO proposal, Payne, Brent, and Watkins Parents	One of the projects for the Collaboration Teams is to design the Smithsonian/Museum Studies partnership at Jefferson and Stuart-Hobson MS.
		Vertically integrate city-wide special education programs	CHPSPO proposal	The plan ensures special education students will be served. Over the next few years, DCPS will disband most of the special education clusters and serve these students in their neighborhood schools. Autism, hearing and visually impaired clusters will remain in a cluster setting.
	Transportation	Should have safe bike paths and routes to school from all over the Hill	Maury Parent	DCPS currently works with the DC Department of Transportation to identify safe routes around schools.